Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service

3022. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service will open from 7th April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether both Governments have provided precautions in the Agreement to ensure that wanted terrorists and criminals do not sneak out of India and infiltrators are not allowed to enter Jammu and Kashmir by the agreed bus service;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. During the recent visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan from February 15-17, 2005, an agreement was reached with Pakistan to start bus services between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad and accordingly the bus service has started since 7th April, 2005.

(b) to (d) Various precautions have been taken to ensure that terrorists and criminals do not sneak out of India or infiltrators are not allowed to enter Jammu and Kashmir from across, which include:—

(i) The cases of each intending traveller from both sides are being vetted by the security agencies.

(ii) Those entering the State are being subjected to security checks as found necessary.

(iii) Record is being maintained to ensure that visitors from across go back before the duration of visit is over.

Resistance to fencing along Indo-Bangladesh borders

3023. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh borders is almost complete;

(b) if so, whether there has been any kind of resistance from the locals in Tripura, as this has snatched their livelihood;

(c) if so, the details of the hardships faced by the border people as a result of fencing; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to alleviate their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Government of India has sanctioned construction of 3286 Km. of fence. Out of this, 1928 Km. of fence has been completed. Some local people have tried to resist the construction of Indo-Bangladesh border fence as they apprehend that they may be debarred from cultivating their land which falls between the international border and the fence.

(d) In order to alleviate problems of the locals residents of the border areas of the Tripura and to dispel their apprehension, the following steps are being taken/have been taken:—

(i) Government does not prohibit any Indian farmers from cultivating his land beyond fence (in between fence and international border);

(ii) In order to facilitate easy movement of farmers, the provision of gates has been made in the border fencing to enable them to go across the fencing to attend to their routine agricultural and other activities. The timings for opening of the gates have also been decided in consultation with the local residents. A BSF guard is posted at every gate to help the local people to open the gate as and when required by them. In case of emergencies, the movement is also permitted during the night time.

Fire incident in Kirti Nagar, Delhi

3024. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in timber market in Kirti Nagar, New Delhi on 31st December, 2004 in which a number of personnel of Delhi Fire Service and others lost their lives;

(b) if so, cause of fire, if ascertained and the estimated loss of property caused thereby;